

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Belmont BEC and TCFWA CEO Carol Hanlon to attend Commonwealth People's Forum at CHOGM in October 2011**

The Commonwealth People's Forum, which is now more than a decade old, is the most significant consultative policy making event in the Commonwealth calendar for civil society. Carol Hanlon, CEO of Belmont Business Enterprise Centre (Belmont BEC) and the Textile, Clothing Footwear and Leather Resource Centre of W.A. (TCFWA) has been invited to participate in the prestigious event.

Convened every two years, the People's Forum brings together hundreds of non-governmental groups from the association's 54 member countries to seek agreement and action on key issues facing Commonwealth people. Over the course of the four-day event, assemblies cover topics such as climate change, culture, education, financial crisis, food security, gender, health and human rights.

Carol Hanlon's diverse small business experience qualifies her well for the invitation to the event which is part of CHOGM in Perth during October 2011 and her attendance is partly being supported by the Lotterywest.

In February & March this year, Carol was invited to present twice at the United Nations Commission Status of Women NGO Forums (UNCSW55) in regards the micro enterprise development projects she has developed including the TCF Ormoc village sewing project established in the Philippines. TCF Ormoc project was recently awarded the BPW International 'Power to Make a Difference' Award at the International Congress, Helsinki Finland. Carol is a member of the Asia Pacific Committee for BPW International Inc and has an extensive network of non-profit community organisations that she assists globally as a volunteer.

The Belmont BEC, established in 1994, is part of a network of 120 Business Enterprise Centres across Australia providing guidance and support to new and existing businesses. Belmont BEC is a non-profit community based organisation and in 2004 & 2008 Carol was announced Best National BEC Manager in Australia a prestigious award voted from amongst her peers.

The TCFWA of which Carol Hanlon is also CEO, is a not-for-profit national support centre for the Textile, Clothing Footwear and Leather industry that provides support and specialised resources, services and training. From its headquarters in Belmont, WA, TCFWA, TCF Australia and TCF Global aim to help the TCF industry establish and maintain key partnerships.

Ms Hanlon's previous small business background includes fashion design, clothing manufacturing, wholesale, retail and export for over twenty years on the east coast of Australia. In her previous life as a small business owner, Ms Hanlon was responsible for the design, production, direction and staging of her own fashion label - which received international acclaim. The fashion studio won the Geelong Business Excellence Award for Manufacturing - under 20 employees, in 1986.

Ms Hanlon held the position of District Governor 1985-1986 for an International Service Club on the east coast of Australia and in this role assisted with projects for the speech and hearing impaired and national projects that highlighted the community service work of young women across Australia. Carol has enthusiasm, passion and commitment for all projects and roles that she undertakes.

Ms Hanlon has always been a strong community leader, serving on numerous Advisory Committees including restructuring of TAFE courses, tourism and regional economic development. Carol has received extensive community and business recognition for over 30 years and in 2006 Carol was a nominee of the Western Australian Citizen of the Year Awards – Industry and Commerce category, WA Week 2007 was recognised as one of WA's 100 Champions by the City of Perth and in 2009 was awarded the City of Perth Convention Scholarship.

In March 2011, Ms Hanlon was named as one of the Western Australia's top 100 women in the inaugural Women's Hall of Fame. The awards were part of the 100th anniversary of International

Women's Day celebrations, and Carol was deemed 'Business Dreams Champion' and amongst the State's highest achieving women in their respective fields.

Carol is a past Board Member, BEC Australia; National President of the Australian Institute of Enterprise Facilitators; Past President of Belmont Business & Professional Women's Club (BPW); elected in 2007 local Government Councillor City of Belmont; Graduate Australia Institute of Company Directors; Past Convenor 2007 National Small Business Development Conference and Convenor International Fashion Incubator Conference held in Perth September 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> with representatives from over 24 countries and 100 delegates attending.

Carol Hanlon, CEO of Belmont BEC and TCFWA said, "It is fantastic that I will have the opportunity to represent a number of not-for-profit organisations at the Commonwealth People's Forum at CHOGM in Perth during October 2011. I'm looking forward to sharing my experiences with many from around the globe."

To find out more about the business advisory services offered by Belmont BEC or to find out about TCF projects log onto [www.belmontbec.com](http://www.belmontbec.com) or [www.tcfwa.com](http://www.tcfwa.com)

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